

Plastic Bag Ordinance Working Session

Hosted by Councilors Matt O'Malley and Michelle Wu

Overview of Ordinance

Ban single-use plastic bags and a five-cents fee to paper bags, reusable plastic bags (3 mil) and compostable plastic bags.

Purpose

- Curb litter on the streets
- Protect marine environment and waterways
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and solid waste
- Protect the long-term environmental health of the City

Exemptions: laundry or dry-cleaner bags, newspaper bags and bags used to contain or wrap foods, meat or fish

Enforcement: If a retailer continues to violate after it receives a warning, the penalty of each violation is no more than \$50 for the first offense and \$100 for the second offense.

Timeline of Plastic Bag Ordinance

August 3: Order passed to create the 90-day working group

September 13: Break out session

October 4: Open discussion and survey walkthrough

October 6: Online survey is public and translated in three languages

October 25: Survey analysis and further discussion on the ordinance

November 16: City Council briefing

December 13: Public Hearing on reducing plastic bags

January 13: Ordinance was re-filed for the 2017 Legislative Session

Task Force Findings

Ordinance

- Simple & narrow
- Follow the models of City ordinances such as Seattle's and Cambridge's
- Include a ban and a fee for robust impact

Implementation

- Focus on accessibility for low income families & seniors
- Needs education and outreach
- Must engage small and local businesses





Video by Calida (11), Clare and Eleanor (10) from the Mather Girl Scout Troop

Discussion

How can the ordinance work for all Boston residents and businesses?